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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,288	04/01/2004	Naoki Yoshida	P21-169534M/ISI	6118

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/814,288		YOSHIDA, NAOKI	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	James M. Hewitt		3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/21/06 & 1/26/07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 January 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/21/06 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 4-10 and 12-16 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Yoshida et al (JP 2003-021287). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the subject matter on lines 11-14 of claim 1, the subject matter of claims 13-16, and the subject matter on lines 17-20 of claim 20 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). The following does not find proper antecedent basis in the specification: the subject matter on lines 11-14 of claim 1; the subject matter on lines 17-20 of claim 20.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 12, the phrase "is one of equal to and less" should be replaced with the phrase "is either equal or less".

In claim 11, line 2, "each of" should be inserted after "portion of" for clarity.

In claim 12, line 2, "each of" should be inserted after "portion of" for clarity.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al (JP 2003-021287).

From the Figures, it is clear that Yoshida et al disclose a piping connector as claimed in claims 1-17 and 20, and a method of connecting a piping connector as claimed in claims 18 and 19.

Note that in claims 9 and 10, the phrase "permanent attachment means" is not considered to invoke 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoskins et al (US 4,640,534).

With respect to claim 18, Hoskins et al disclose a method of connecting a piping connector, said piping connector comprising a socket (14) containing a seal ring (16) fixably attached to an inner periphery of said socket, a stopper (18), and a plug (13) comprising a first tapered portion (30), a radius portion (the transition between the first taper portion 30 and flat portion 32), a flat portion (32), a second tapered portion (a portion of portion 34 adjacent cylindrical portion 36) and a notch portion (38) for engaging said stopper, all of said plug portions extending respectively from a front end of said plug, the method of connecting comprising: inserting said plug into said stopper; engaging said first tapered portion of said plug with said seal ring attached to said socket; and, sliding said plug into said stopper such that after said seal ring reaches the radius portion of said plug, the stopper is brought into engaging contact with the second taper portion.

With respect to claim 19, further comprising: sliding said plug into said stopper such that before said seal ring passes the radius portion, the stopper is brought into engaging contact with the second taper portion.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/21/06 with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections of claims 1 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed 12/21/06 with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claim 18 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant asserts "Hoskins fails to teach or suggest, "sliding said plug into said stopper such that after said seal ring reaches the radius portion of said plug, the stopper is brought into engaging contact with the second taper portion." Applicant further asserts "Hoskins Fig. 6 discloses that stopper 18 engages the second taper portion 34 **before** the seal ring 16 reaches the radius portion of the plug 20." Examiner disagrees. Note that the claimed second taper portion has been identified as a portion of portion 34 adjacent cylindrical portion 36. And thus from Fig. 6, it is clear that stopper 18 engages the second taper portion 34 (a portion of portion 34 adjacent cylindrical portion 36) after the seal ring 16 reaches the radius portion of the plug 20

Conclusion

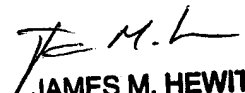
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH
4/11/07


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER